

The enemy ceased firing on Belgrade. Later more than one hundred shells fell on our positions at Belgrade without result. Several shells burst in private houses, but there were no victims.

#### Hope in Joint Note.

The Entente Powers are placing great hope in the joint note that was sent to the Balkan States. This note, it is now learned from Berlin, promises Bulgaria the non-contested zone in Macedonia, with the exception of a small strip of the Serbo-Albanian frontier, to be retained to permit of a common Greco-Serbian frontier.

The non-contested zone of Macedonia is that part of the country which should have fallen to the Bulgarians under the terms of the Balkan alliance after the Balkan war. No attempt is made to determine the extent of the concessions from Greece in the hinterland of Kavala, the Entente Powers pointing out that this depends on the extent of Greek compensation in Asia Minor.

It is proposed that the territory to go to Bulgaria shall be occupied by British and French troops until the end of the war so that there will be no possible difficulties respecting the transfer of the territory before the results of the war are known.

#### LONG A DEADLOCK.

Serbs and Austrians Have Watched Each Other Across Save.

The reported earnest attempt on the part of the Austrians to occupy the Save, the former capital of Serbia, if true, brings to a stop one of the most unique situations the present war has created. For more than a quarter of a year the Austrians have been engaged in a struggle to occupy the Save, but have been little more than making faces at each other, figuratively speaking, while nominally engaged in bitter warfare.

At one point hardly a thousand yards separate the "belligerents" and the beleaguered, namely at the most exposed portion of the river front of Belgrade, where the Save is only a few miles across.

Opposite Belgrade, at the confluence of the Save and the Danube, lies the Hungarian town of Semlin. Both towns show plenty of souvenirs from the big shells that flew thick and fast back and forth, during the mutual bombardments in the earlier stages of the war. But for months the citizens of Belgrade have been walking about the city streets with impunity, though 80 per cent of the shops are shattered and roads and buildings wholly or partly demolished. The Austrians, however, have seen with the naked eye in Semlin, across the river.

#### Belgrade and Semlin Suffered.

Interesting sidelights into the events preceding this state of affairs is given in a letter from a correspondent in Belgrade. When the Austrians last February began the heavy bombardment of Belgrade, he explains, the Serbs promptly turned their guns on Semlin, and as both towns are entirely at the mercy of the bombarders, the heavy gunfire soon was reduced to a dull roar. When the Serbs began to bombard Semlin, the Austrians, in turn, began to bombard Belgrade. The result was a full-scale war between the two towns, with a white flag was despatched from Semlin to the Serbs to propose that each side should retire to the outer fortifications and gun positions as far as these were discoverable. The proposal was accepted.

"From the slopes of Kara Bourma," continues the correspondent's letter, "you can study the Austrians' position in peace unless they should choose to take a dislike to you and open on you with artillery or something heavier. An evacuated line of trenches and Serbian gun positions are visible from the city. Every day the Austrians show what excellent practice he can make."

"This was six months ago. As one stands now on the edge of the great Austro-Serbian battle, the Serbs are one looks across at the Austrians' positions with a certain feeling of respect, not lessened by the knowledge that the Austrians are doubtless studying you through glasses and wondering what you are."

#### River Front Desolated.

"On the west of Belgrade, along the Save, it is an easy thing to see across the stream, and the whole river front is a scene of desolation, of tumbled bricks and shattered houses. Immediately to your left is the ruined bridge across the Save. One end of the four span viaduct spans rests on a pier, while the other end is in the water. The fifth span dropped in enough to let the water allow the enemy's monitors to pass over it."

The correspondent describes how he saw a little girl chase butterflies along the wreckage where the Austrians early in the war crossed the river in force, invading Belgrade.

"This little girl unwittingly served as protection for a party that for twenty minutes stood on the shore of the Save, not a sound being heard, the river or the banks on the other side. Walking away, the party took the child along, letting her walk in the middle of the road."

#### When the floods have receded," the writer predicts, "there will be no more shelling down the river. The enemy across 700 yards of open water and no more chasing of butterflies on this dreadful foreshore."

#### MONTENEGRINS DEFEATED.

King Nicholas's Men Suffer Heavy Losses in Tribal Fighting.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. BEOGRAD, Aug. 15.—The British and Russian governments have announced that during the recent efforts to subjugate rebellious tribes in the vicinity of that city the Montenegrins have sustained serious losses and defeats.

The Albanians defeated the Montenegrins in a recent battle on the Selia and Sutor mountains, inflicting losses of 100 men on the Montenegrins. The Albanians also overcame and captured an entire Montenegrin battalion which sought to invade the country.

Another Montenegrin expedition was defeated at Slac despite the fact that reinforcements had been brought up from Scutari in order to conciliate the tribesmen of King Nicholas, from and Ser.

Scutari will become the new capital of Montenegro. The Montenegrin National Bank already is opening headquarters in that city.

#### BOMBS ON CONSTANTINOPLE.

Allies' Aviators Attack Galata and Topkapia.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Aug. 15.—The Athens correspondent of the Daily Telegraph reports that the Turks are reported to be constructing a fresh line of defenses on the Marmara front.

Allied aeroplanes, he adds, bombarded the area around Topkapia and Galata causing considerable damage and some casualties.

#### Berlin Denies Battle Defeat.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. AMSTERDAM, Aug. 15.—Despatches which have reached Amsterdam from Berlin say the story of a German naval defeat at Oesel is an invention. What really did occur, these despatches say, was a skirmish between German torpedo boats and Russian torpedo boat destroyers.

"The latter retreated hastily," according to the Berlin version, "after being outmaneuvered by the Germans. The Germans lost no craft in the engagement."

## FIRST GUN FIRED IN BATTLE FOR CONSCRIPTION

Northcliffe Opens National Campaign by Assailing Registration Act.

SAYS CABINET IS HIDING REAL ISSUE

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Aug. 16 (Monday).—Lord Northcliffe opened his campaign for conscription by an article in his paper, the Daily Mail, this morning violently assailing the national registration scheme as a sham, planned by the coalition government to avert compulsory service. Lord Northcliffe intends to make the question of conscription a national issue. His opponents, those who do not believe conscription necessary or desirable, make the charge that he is not sincere in his protestations, that his real aim is to bring about the downfall of the coalition Cabinet and the entry into power of a Ministry pledged to introduce compulsory service.

#### Left to Escape Registration.

A large number of Irishmen left England and Scotland on Saturday to evade Sunday's registration and went to ports of Ireland where the act does not apply. A majority of these apparently were residents of Glasgow, Liverpool and other big northwestern towns.

Big crowds of hundreds of departures from Greenock and hooted and shouted, "Cowards, I hope you'll be submarine!" Some of them were handled pretty roughly by the police. Where possible the assailants were arrested.

Many persons who believe that the national register will lead inevitably to compulsory service and believe that it is "to go before they're pushed" have enlisted during this week end. It seems, too, that the registration act has hastened a great many marriages among the more peace-loving classes. Where possible the couples have been married in the week end. Many men will be exempt from military service.

A Londonderry despatch says that about 1,000 Irishmen, practically all of whom were Catholics, arrived from Scotland to-day to escape the registration. Many of them have been working in munition shops. From the Londonderry despatch it is learned that soldiers ironically saluted.

To-day is the last day for the filing of information concerning age and occupation by the national register. Under the act, the first shot in Lord Northcliffe's campaign is directed against the registration of the government's war program.

#### "A Peace Time Fad."

The article charges that the entire scheme of a national register was concocted by the coalition government to shirk or postpone its duty of imposing compulsory service. The writer, who is a regular contributor to the paper, declares that the government has made the mistake of treating the war measure, while it is in fact precisely the reverse. "Merely a peace time fad," is what the writer terms the register, "decided upon as an evasion of compulsory service."

"It enormously complicates the imperative issue," he continues. "Three-fourths of the country is wasted work. The whole thing is a sham."

The Coalition Government is accused of lacking the courage and clearness of vision to make the necessary sacrifice to a crisis in the country's history. It is entirely destitute of the faculty of leadership, the writer says.

The Daily Mail gives prominence to a manifesto of the promoters of the movement for national military service. The document is used as a pretext for the editorial declaration that national military service is extremely urgent and that it must be followed out in order to organize effectively the efforts to prosecute the war effectively.

"The war," says the paper, "must be made available for the fighting line or national service at home."

It is suggested that conscription be formed by the demonstration throughout the country to secure the adoption in all sections of a manifesto similar to that published to-day.

#### Prominent Men in Line.

The manifesto has been signed by fifty prominent persons, including peers, members of Parliament, diplomats, scientists, writers, and others. All are conspicuous in the affairs of Great Britain. Among them are Sir Thomas Charles, Lord Northcliffe, Lord Charles Cavendish, Sir Cecil De Mille, Sir William Ramsay, Sir Arthur Pinner and Sir William Ramsay.

Editorially the Daily Mail "urgently beseeches" the people to assist this movement in every way possible. It declares that a majority of the Cabinet and the Ministry of War are in favor of the measure.

The Post asks: "Does it mean anything?" and the Times somewhat sarcastically urges the government to decide what to do with the information it now has.

#### LIPTON, LTD., HAS BIG LOSS.

Year's Profit Only Half of That Anticipated for 1914.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Aug. 15.—A report given out by Lipton's Ltd., covering the year ended March 31 last, has startled the shareholders of the firm. An exhaustive examination by the new directors showed discrepancies in some of the figures, besides losses in investments and through other causes.

Sir Thomas Lipton personally has made arrangements to avert the loss of the company's capital, but it is necessary to allow \$298,375 out of the revenue for depreciation and to provide for a further depreciation of \$1,109,942. The profit of the corporation is only half of what they were in the previous year. No dividend is to be paid on ordinary shares. Hitherto a 6 per cent. dividend was paid on these shares.

#### Day's British Losses 2,348.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Aug. 15.—The British casualty list from all fronts published to-day includes the names of 181 officers, of whom 105 were killed, and 2,166 men, of whom 1,045 were killed.

## TEX TO REFUTE NOTE SHIPPED TO AUSTRIA'S PROTEST AGAINST SHIPMENT OF ARMS

Answer Sent to Ambassador Penfield for Delivery to Foreign Office.

NEUTRALITY IS UPHELD

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—The text of the note sent by the United States to Austria in reply to that country's protest against shipment of arms and ammunition from here was given out to-night. It is as follows:

The Secretary of State to Ambassador Penfield: Department of State, Washington, August 12, 1915.

Please present a note to the Royal Foreign Office in reply to its note of June 25, 1915, as follows:

The Government of the United States has given careful consideration to the statement of the Imperial and Royal Government in regard to the exportation of arms and ammunition from the United States to the countries at war with Austria-Hungary and Germany. The Government of the United States notes that the Imperial and Royal Government of the United States is prompted by its intention to "maintain the strictest neutrality and to conform to the letter of the provisions of international treaties," but is surprised to find the Imperial and Royal Government implying that the observance of the principles of the law under the conditions which have developed in the present war is insufficient, and asserting that this Government is not to be held responsible for the maintenance of an attitude of strict neutrality with respect to both belligerent parties.

#### Unrestricted Trade Policy.

But, in addition to the question of principle, there is a practical and substantial reason why the Government of the United States has from the foundation of the republic to the present time advocated and practiced unrestricted trade in arms and military supplies. It has never been the policy of this country to maintain in time of peace a large military establishment, and the United States has no munition sufficient to repel invasion by a well equipped and powerful enemy. It has desired to remain at peace with all nations and to avoid any appearance of menacing such peace by the threat of its armies and navies. In consequence of this standard policy, the United States has not in the event of attack by a foreign power, be it at the outset of the war seriously, if not fatally, embarrassed by the means to produce them in sufficient quantities to supply the requirements of national defense. The United States has, therefore, been able to maintain its neutrality and to preserve its peace and integrity intact.

A nation whose principle and policy it is to rely upon international obligations and international justice to preserve its peace and integrity intact might become the prey of an aggressive nation whose policy of aggression is to increase its military strength by the use of the arms and munition of other nations.

The general adoption by the nations of the world of the principle of unrestricted trade in arms and munition would be a step toward the establishment of a world peace which would be a step toward the establishment of a world peace which would be a step toward the establishment of a world peace.

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#### POINTS MADE BY U. S. NOTE

The reply of the United States to Austria's protest against the shipment of war munitions points out, among other things:

That both Austria and Germany during the Boer war made a practice of shipping munitions to Great Britain under conditions similar to those which they now propose.

That the prohibition of the sales of munitions by neutral powers to belligerents would compel every nation to have in readiness at all times sufficient munitions to last them throughout any war in which they might be engaged.

That a policy would force world militarism and work against the cause of universal peace.

That without the right to purchase munitions from other nations the United States would be seriously embarrassed in the event of being drawn into war.

even though the circumstances of the present war prevent Austria-Hungary from obtaining such supplies from the markets of the United States, which have been and remain, so far as the action and policy of the United States are concerned, open to all belligerents alike.

But, in addition to the question of principle, there is a practical and substantial reason why the Government of the United States has from the foundation of the republic to the present time advocated and practiced unrestricted trade in arms and military supplies.

It has never been the policy of this country to maintain in time of peace a large military establishment, and the United States has no munition sufficient to repel invasion by a well equipped and powerful enemy.

It has desired to remain at peace with all nations and to avoid any appearance of menacing such peace by the threat of its armies and navies.

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International Law Quoted to Show the Injustice of Claims Made.

EXPORT FIGURES GIVEN

consistency of the course adopted by this Government in relation to the exportation of arms and ammunition and that followed in not allowing supplies to be taken from its ports to ships of war on the high seas.

It is only necessary to point out that the prohibition of supplies to ships of war rests upon the principle that a neutral power must not permit its territory to become a naval base for either belligerent.

A warship may, under certain restrictions, obtain fuel and supplies in a neutral port once in three months. To permit merchant vessels acting as tenders to carry supplies more often than three months and in unlimited amount would defeat the purpose of the rule and might constitute the neutral territory a naval base.

Furthermore, this Government is unaware that any Austro-Hungarian ship of war has been seen in the waters of the United States, either directly or indirectly. This subject has, however, already been discussed in a note from the Imperial German Government, to which the position of this Government was fully set forth December 24, 1914.

#### Austrian Claim Erroneous.

In view of the positive assertion in the statement of the Imperial and Royal Government as to the unavailability of international law to the exportation of contraband being neutral, this Government has caused a careful examination of the principal authorities on international law to be made. As a result of this examination it has come to the conclusion that the Imperial and Royal Government's statement is erroneous.

Less than one-fifth of the authorities consulted advocate unconditionally the prohibition of the export of contraband. Several of those who constitute this minority admit that the practice of nations has been otherwise.

It may not be inopportune to direct particular attention to the declaration of the German authority, Paul Heineke, who states that at the beginning of a war belligerents have never remonstrated against the enactment of prohibitions on trade in contraband, which such prohibitions may be considered as violations of neutrality, or at least as unfriendly acts, if they are enacted during a war with the purpose to close the ports of a neutral country to the supply of a party which heretofore had relied on them.

The Government of the United States deems it unnecessary to extend further at the present time a consideration of the statement of the Imperial and Royal Government. The principles of international law, the practice of nations, the national safety of the United States and other nations are all in favor of the export of contraband.

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